



For Immediate Release:  
June 19, 2003

Contact: Brent Northrup (435) 259-2100

## **BLM Announces Revision of the Moab and Monticello Resource Management Plans** *Public is encouraged to participate in the planning process*

MOAB and MONTICELLO—The Moab and Monticello Field Offices of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced this month their intentions to prepare Resource Management Plan (RMP) revisions for the public lands they manage. The RMP is the basic document that guides management of natural resources, activities, and uses on the public lands during the next 15 years. BLM is encouraging the public to become involved with the preparation of the RMPs during scoping now until December 30, 2003.

The Moab Field Office is responsible for administering about 1.85 million acres of public lands located in southeastern Utah contained within Grand County and the northern portion of San Juan County. Geographically, the field office boundary is bordered by the Book Cliffs on the north, the Colorado state line on the east, Harts Point and Lisbon Valley on the south, and the Green River on the west. Major waterways within the area include the Colorado, Green, and Dolores Rivers.

The Monticello Field Office is responsible for administering about 1.78 million acres of public lands in southeastern Utah contained within in the southern portion of San Juan County. Geographically, the field office boundary is bordered by the Colorado state line on the east, the Navajo Indian Reservation on the south, the Colorado River on the west, and Canyonlands National Park on the north. A major waterway within the area is the San Juan River.

Existing land use plans were prepared for the Moab and Monticello Field Offices in 1985 and 1991, respectively. Since then, considerable changes have occurred within the areas. There has been tremendous growth in recreational activities such as mountain biking and off-highway vehicle use. There has been heightened public awareness regarding conflicts between recreational activities and oil and gas development. Also, new data is available for bighorn sheep, antelope, and Mexican spotted owl habitats.

The RMPs will resolve issues and conflicts identified by the public in a manner that balances use and protection of natural resources. Preliminary issues identified for consideration in the new RMPs are air quality; cultural resources; paleontology; fire management; woodland harvest and management; hazardous sites; lands and realty; rangeland management and health/rehabilitation; minerals management; off-highway vehicle use; recreation; riparian resources; socio-economics; vegetation; visual resources; watersheds and water quality; special management areas; and wildlife habitat.

As part of the planning process, the BLM will also consider nominations for potential Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and nominations of rivers for potential inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The BLM recognizes the importance and value of the public's input during the planning process and would encourage citizens who have an interest in the public lands in the Monticello and Moab areas to submit their issues, concerns, and information. Public scoping meetings will be scheduled in Moab, Monticello, Salt Lake City, Grand Junction, Green River, and Blanding in October and November of 2003. Specific dates, times, and places of the scoping meetings will be announced on the RMP websites and in the local media.

Drawing from this input, a reasonable range of alternatives will be developed and analyzed in a Draft RMP/Environmental Impact Statement that will be published and made available for public review.

For more information about becoming involved with these RMP projects or to submit comments, please use the following contact information: Moab RMP Comments, BLM Moab Field Office, Brent Northrup, Moab RMP Project Manager, 82 East Dogwood, Moab, Utah 84532, phone (435) 259-2100, [www.moabrmrp.com](http://www.moabrmrp.com); Monticello RMP Comments, BLM Monticello Field Office, Gary Torres, Monticello RMP Project Manager, 435 North Main Street, Monticello, Utah 84535, phone (435) 587-1500, [www.monticellormrp.com](http://www.monticellormrp.com).